

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PETITION OF WESTERN KENTUCKY GAS)	
COMPANY FOR A DEVIATION FROM 807)	CASE NO. 96-339
KAR 5:022, SECTION 9(17)(A))	

O R D E R

On July 15, 1996, Western Kentucky Gas Company ("Western") filed an application with this Commission requesting a deviation from 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a), to install block valves on the main line in lieu of separate curb stops for each service line under a portion of the pavement of Washington Street in Shelbyville, Kentucky. The block valves will be in addition to the above ground shut-off valve at each meter set. The block valves will be inspected along with the curb stops.

On July 22, 1996, Commission Staff visited the site and met with Western's representatives, Kevin J. Dobbs, manager, Doug Stearns, and John Gentry. Mr. Dobbs explained that Western is replacing the low pressure 6-inch cast iron main with a 2-inch high pressure polyethylene pipe. The deviation would apply to several buildings located close to the curb. According to Western, locating a curb stop so close to a building is not effective during an emergency. Installing accessible block valves will facilitate the disconnection of service from a safe distance in case of fire.

Having reviewed the evidence of record and being otherwise advised, the Commission finds that:

1. The location of the curb stops as required by 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a), in the parking lane on the south side of Washington Street, Shelbyville, Kentucky is in close proximity of the buildings, 15 feet or less, which will not provide adequate distance to operate in case of fire.

2. A curb stop located more than 15 feet from a meter set should be required as means to shut off the gas when the meter set is not accessible.

3. Each meter set will have an above ground shutoff valve which can be operated, if it were accessible, to disconnect service to a building during an emergency. Otherwise, the gas can be disconnected from the proposed accessible block valves.

4. Western should be granted a deviation from 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a), to install the proposed block valves in lieu of curb stops along Washington Street between 1st and 7th streets in Shelbyville, Kentucky, where the meter set is 15 feet or less from sidewalk.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Western's application for a deviation from the Commission's regulation, 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a), is granted for meter sets located 15 feet or less from the sidewalk.

2. Western shall install the block valves in a manner that makes them accessible to operate during fire or emergency.

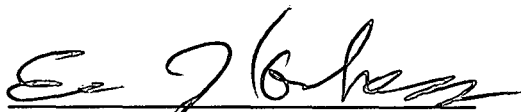
3. Western shall inspect these block valves in accordance with 807 KAR 5:022, Section 14(25), and shall inspect all curb stops pursuant to 807 KAR 5:006, Section 25(5)(a)1.iii, and 807 KAR 5:006, Section 25(5)(c).

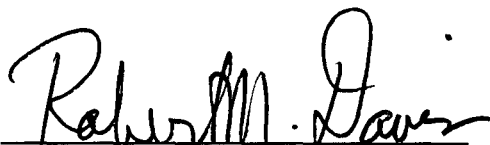
4. Western shall make all applicable personnel aware of the emergency operation of the block valves in lieu of the eliminated curb stops.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 25th day of September, 1996.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director